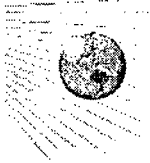


SITE: Aerovox

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Nancy
Grantham/R1/USEPA/US
10/07/2009 09:48 AM

To Joanna Jerison/R1/USEPA/US@EPA, Cynthia
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October 7, 2009

6

Settlement near on Aerovox demolition

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By **BECKY W. EVANS**

revans@s-t.com

October 07, 2009 12:00 AM

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NEW BEDFORD — The company responsible for demolishing the PCB-laden Aerovox mill on Belleville Avenue is about a month away from signing a settlement agreement with city, state and federal environmental officials, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The agreement will pave the way for the long-awaited demolition of the mill, which the EPA first announced as a priority in June 2006 due to the double threat of a toxic chemical fire and contamination of New Bedford Harbor.

For more than a year, the EPA, state Department of Environmental Protection and city of New Bedford have been negotiating with the potentially responsible party, AVX Corp. of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

"I am very confident that we will cross the finish line soon," EPA project manager Dave Dickerson said during a Tuesday night meeting of the Brooklawn Neighborhood Association.

Dickerson estimated that demolition of the 450,000-square-foot building — where electrical capacitors and

transformers were produced from the 1940s through the 1970s — could begin as early as September 2010. The demolition process, which includes removal of asbestos and other toxins prior to tearing the building down, will take about five to six months to complete, he said.

AVX will hire a private company to perform the demolition, which is estimated to cost about \$13 million, Dickerson said. Following the demolition, AVX will spend an additional \$13 million to perform cleanup activities at the site as required under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, he said.

The city of New Bedford will spend about \$10 million in EPA funding to haul the contaminated demolition debris to a federally licensed disposal facility. The EPA had first proposed burying the debris at the site and covering it with a 2-foot cap of clean soil. That proposal was rejected in favor of off-site disposal after residents complained that burying the debris could endanger public health.

Dickerson said the settlement agreement includes "very rigorous standards" for air quality monitoring during demolition activity. Large amounts of water will be used for dust suppression due to the building's high level of contamination, he said.

Some residents at the meeting urged that local workers be hired for the demolition due to the city's poor economic climate. Dickerson said the EPA has encouraged AVX to hire local workers.

Scott Alfonse, director of the city's environmental stewardship office, said the agencies have more control over hiring local workers for the transportation and disposal component of the project. The city is expected to publish a request for proposals for that work as soon as March.

After the settlement agreement is signed, the EPA plans to host a formal public meeting to discuss the demolition plan.